

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

THOMAS KARANIEWSKY, on behalf of himself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

US INVESTIGATIONS SERVICES, LLC,

Defendant.

CASE NO.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
VIOLATION OF WARN ACT 29 U.S.C. § 2101, ET SEQ.**

Plaintiff Thomas Karaniewsky (“Plaintiff”) alleges on behalf himself and a class of similarly situated former employees of defendant, by way of his Class Action Complaint against US Investigations Services, LLC (the “Defendant”) by and through his counsel as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Defendant was terminated on August 7, 2014, without pay, in what the company termed a furlough with no recall date and no notice. On Sept 24, 2014, he received a termination letter stating he would be terminated effective September 30, 2014. Defendant terminated without notice the employment of approximately 1200 or so full-time employees on August 7, 2014.

2. Plaintiff, Thomas Karaniewsky, was an employee of US Investigations Services, LLC until his termination on or about August 7, 2014.

3. The Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself, and other similarly situated former employees who worked for Defendant and who were terminated without cause, as part of, or as the foreseeable result of, plant closings or mass layoffs ordered by Defendant and who were not provided 60 days advance written notice of their terminations by Defendant, as required by the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (“WARN Act”), 29 U.S.C. § 2101 *et seq.*

4. Plaintiff and all similarly situated employees seek to recover 60 days wages and benefits, pursuant to the WARN Act, from Defendant.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1334 and 1367 and 29 U.S.C. § 2104(a)(5).

6. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 2104(a)(5).

THE PARTIES

Plaintiff

7. Plaintiff, Thomas Karaniewsky, was an employee of United States Investigations Services, LLC and worked as a Record Searcher II at the Defendant’s facility located at 125 Lincoln Avenue, Grove City Pennsylvania (the “Grove City” Facility) until his termination on or about August 7, 2014.

Defendant

8. Defendant, US Investigations Services, LLC, is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business located at 7799 Leesburg Pike, Suite 400 South, Falls Church, Virginia and conducted business in this district.

9. Defendant maintained and operated its corporate headquarters located at 7799 Leesburg Pike, Suite 400 South, Falls Church, Virginia (the “Falls Church” Facility), and operated additional facilities as that term is defined by the WARN Act throughout the United States, including, but not limited to, Pennsylvania and Virginia (collectively the “Facilities”).

10. Until on or about August 7, 2014, the Plaintiff and all similarly situated employees were employed by Defendant and worked at or reported to one of Defendant’s Facilities.

11. Upon information and belief, the Defendant made the decision to terminate the employment of the Plaintiff and the other similarly situated former employees.

WARN CLASS ALLEGATIONS, 29 U.S.C. § 2104

12. Plaintiff brings the First Claim for Relief for violation of 29 U.S.C. § 2101 *et seq.*, on behalf of himself and on behalf of all other similarly situated former employees, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 2104(a)(5) and Fed. R. Civ P. 23(a), who worked at or reported to one of Defendant’s Facilities and were terminated without cause on or about August 7, 2014, and within 30 days of that date, or were terminated without cause as the reasonably foreseeable consequence of the mass layoffs and/or plant closings ordered by Defendant on or about August 7, 2014, and who are affected employees, within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(5) (the “WARN Class”).

13. The persons in the WARN Class identified above (“WARN Class Members”) are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, the facts on which the calculation of that number can be based are presently within the sole control of Defendant.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant employed more than 3000 employees nationwide, including approximately 1200 employees at their Grove City Facility.

15. On information and belief, the identity of the members of the class and the recent residence address of each of the WARN Class Members is contained in the books and records of Defendant.

16. On information and belief, the rate of pay and benefits that were being paid by Defendant to each WARN Class Member at the time of his/her termination is contained in the books and records of the Defendant.

17. Common questions of law and fact exist as to members of the WARN Class, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) whether the members of the WARN Class were employees of the Defendant who worked at or reported to Defendant's Facilities;

(b) whether Defendant unlawfully terminated the employment of the members of the WARN Class without cause on their part and without giving them 60 days advance written notice in violation of the WARN Act; and

(c) whether Defendant unlawfully failed to pay the WARN Class members 60 days wages and benefits as required by the WARN Act.

18. The Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the WARN Class. The Plaintiff, like other WARN Class members, worked at or reported to one of Defendant's Facilities and was terminated without cause on or about August 7, 2014, due to the mass layoffs and/or plant closings ordered by Defendant.

19. The Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the WARN Class. The Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class actions, including the WARN Act and employment litigation.

20. On or about August 7, 2014, Defendant terminated the Plaintiff's employment as part of a mass layoff or a plant closing as defined by 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(2), (3), for which he was entitled to receive 60 days advance written notice under the WARN Act.

21. Class certification of these claims is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) because questions of law and fact common to the WARN Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the WARN Class, and because a class action superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation – particularly in the context of WARN Act litigation, where individual plaintiffs may lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute a lawsuit in federal court against a corporate defendant, and damages suffered by individual WARN Class members are small compared to the expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation.

22. Concentrating all the potential litigation concerning the WARN Act rights of the members of the Class in this Court will obviate the need for unduly duplicative litigation that might result in inconsistent judgments, will conserve the judicial resources and the resources of the parties and is the most efficient means of resolving the WARN Act rights of all the members of the Class.

23. The Plaintiff intends to send notice to all members of the WARN Class to the extent required by Rule 23.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

Violation of the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2104

24. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

25. At all relevant times, Defendant employed more than 100 employees who in the aggregate worked at least 4,000 hours per week, exclusive of hours of overtime, within the United States.

26. At all relevant times, Defendant was an “employer,” as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. § 2101 (a)(1) and 20 C.F.R. § 639(a), and continued to operate as a business until they decided to order mass layoffs or plant closings at the Facilities.

27. On or about October August 7, 2014, Defendant ordered mass layoffs and/or plant closings at the Facilities, as those terms are defined by 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(2).

28. The mass layoffs or plant closings at the Facilities resulted in “employment losses,” as that term is defined by 29 U.S.C. §2101(a)(2) for at least fifty of Defendant’s employees as well as thirty-three percent (33%) of Defendant’s workforce at the Facilities, excluding “part-time employees,” as that term is defined by 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(8).

29. The Plaintiff and the Class Members were terminated by Defendant without cause on their part, as part of or as the reasonably foreseeable consequence of the mass layoffs or plant closings ordered by Defendant at the Facilities.

30. The Plaintiff and the Class Members are “affected employees” of Defendant, within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 2101(a)(5).

31. Defendant was required by the WARN Act to give the Plaintiff and the Class Members at least 60 days advance written notice of their terminations.

32. Defendant failed to give the Plaintiff and the Class members written notice that complied with the requirements of the WARN Act.

33. The Plaintiff and each of the Class Members, are “aggrieved employees” of the Defendant as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a)(7).

34. Defendant failed to pay the Plaintiff and each of the Class Members their respective wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay and accrued vacation for 60 days following their respective terminations, and failed to make the pension and 401(k) contributions and provide employee benefits under COBRA for 60 days from and after the dates of their respective terminations.

35. The relief sought in this proceeding is equitable in nature.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons, pray for the following relief as against Defendant, jointly and severally:

- A. Certification of this action as a class action;
- B. Designation of the Plaintiff as the Class Representative;
- C. Appointment of the undersigned attorneys as Class Counsel;
- D. A judgment in favor of the Plaintiff and the other similarly situated former employees equal to the sum of: their unpaid wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, accrued holiday pay, accrued vacation pay, pension and 401(k) contributions and other COBRA benefits, for 60 days, that would have been covered and paid under the then-applicable employee benefit plans had that coverage continued for that period, all determined in accordance with the WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2104 (a)(1)(A); and
- E. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: October 3, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL J. CORDES & ASSOCIATES

/S/ Samuel J. Cordes

Samuel J. Cordes

Pa.I.D. No. 54874

245 Fort Pitt Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 281-7991

Local counsel for Plaintiff and the putative class

Jack A. Raisner, Esq.
René S. Roupinian, Esq.
OUTTEN & GOLDEN LLP
3 Park Avenue, 29th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Telephone: (212) 245-1000

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the putative Class